

INTRODUCING THE “ASK FOC” COLUMN

Friend of the Court is curious about what you want to know. We want to give you the information that interests you in our monthly newsletters. This is your chance to ask us anything. Do you need clarification on a policy or procedure? Interested in knowing more about our office? Are you looking for resources to help you and your family? The only silly question is the one not asked!

We will choose one question per month to answer in our *Ask FOC* column in future newsletters. You can share your questions and suggestions for future newsletter topics via email to:

FOC.Mail@kentcountymi.gov
with “Newsletter” in the subject line.



Please also provide your phone number so that we can follow up with you if needed.

If you have questions specific to your case, please e-mail us with your case or docket number in the subject line instead of “Newsletter”.

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Helpful reminders:

- ✓ Check your case information online at: www.michigan.gov/micase.
- ✓ If you work seasonally and the warmer months are your busy time, remember to budget and set aside savings to use during your slow season.
- ✓ Keep FOC updated regarding your child(ren)’s health insurance by providing a clear copy of the front and back of the insurance card.

CO-PARENTING TIPS

Good communication is vital to successful co-parenting. Working with your child’s other parent can be hard as emotions can get in the way. Your children need both of you. Children are more successful when their parents work together and communicate. Parents should remain focused on their children’s needs and future, rather than the other parent and the past. Here are some tips for working with the other parent:

- ✓ Speak politely to the other parent when you see each other. This can go a long way toward setting a good tone.
- ✓ If you will be even a little late to pick up or drop off the child, call or text the other parent. It will be less stressful for all parties, including the child.
- ✓ Make sure your child is ready to go when it is time to be picked up. Even a few minutes can seem like a lot.
- ✓ Plan ahead. Make arrangements for holidays and vacations well in advance to avoid conflict around important events.





KENT COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT

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Our mission:

*To assist the Family
Division of the Circuit
Court in facilitating the
resolution of domestic
relations matters so
that children's best
interests are
protected.*

E-mail us at:

foc.mail@kentcountymi.gov

Or visit Kent County's
[website](#) for employment
opportunities with
Kent County and the FOC.



I OVERPAID MY CHILD SUPPORT. WHEN AND HOW WILL I GET THIS MONEY BACK?

Why am I overpaid? Overpayments are usually because of a change in your child support order. Under Michigan law a new child support order begins on the first of the month after a motion is filed with the court. It can take several months to change child support. If the monthly child support decreases, and you were making full monthly payments without arrears, then you could end up being overpaid.

Will Friend of the Court refund my money? Friend of the Court does not have money to refund an overpayment because the money has already been given to the other party.

Do I have to keep paying? Yes. You still have to pay your court-ordered amount. Failure to follow the order can result in child support enforcement.

What can Friend of the Court do? Friend of the Court will contact the other party to see if he/she would be willing to receive a lower monthly payment temporarily. For example, if you overpaid by \$200.00 and your new order is for \$100.00/month, we could ask the payee to accept \$80.00/month over the next 10 months. After 10 months ($\$20.00 \times 10 = \200.00), child support would then increase back to the ordered amount of \$100.00 because the overpayment would be gone. The payee could also agree to pay the \$200.00 directly. If we can't contact the payee, we will send letters requesting that he/she agree to the reduced amount. If there is no response, the monthly child support will be reduced until the overpayment is gone.

What if the other party will not agree? If a payee rejects FOC's overpayment terms, then the only option is to file a motion in circuit court. The Legal Assistance Center, located on the 5th Floor of the courthouse at 180 Ottawa NW, can give information on filing a motion.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Now that spring is finally here, local farmers' markets are open again. You can find fresh fruits and vegetables close to home while supporting our local farmers. Many farmers' markets in our community make healthy food affordable for families and accept Bridge Cards or WIC.



The farmers' markets listed below participate in the Double Up Food Bucks Program, which allows you to get up to \$20 in free locally grown produce when you purchase fruits and vegetables with your Bridge card. Click [here](#) for more information about the Double Up Food Bucks Program. You can find a complete list of farmers' markets near you [here](#).

Ada Farmers' Market

7239 Thornapple River Dr.
Open in June: Tue 11-4

Downtown Market G.R.

435 Ionia SW
Open in May: Sat 9-2
Open in June: T 9-2, Thu 4-7

New City Urban Farm

1226 Union NE
Open June 19: Thu 4-6

SE Area Farmers' Market

851 Madison Ave SE
Open June 20: Sat 11-3

YMCA Farmers' Market

475 Lake Michigan Dr. NW
Open in June: Th 3-7

Aquinas College Metro Health Farm Market

1607 Robinson SE
Open May 12: Mon 2:30-6:30

Fulton Street Market

1147 E Fulton St
Open in May: TWFS 8-3
Open in June: Wed 4-7

Plainfield Township Farmers' Market

Cnr of Plainfield Ave & 5 Mile
Open June 10: T/Thu 12-6

SE Area Farmers' Market

32 Pleasant SE
Open June 20: Th 3-7

YMCA Veggie Van

Various locations, see website.
[www.grymca.org/community-programs/
community-based-programs/veggie-van/](http://www.grymca.org/community-programs/community-based-programs/veggie-van/)

Byron Center Farmers' Market

8350 Byron Center Ave SW
Open in May: Mon 8-1

Metro Health Farmers' Market

5900 Byron Center Ave SW
Open May 8: Thu 9-2

SE Area Farmers' Market

334 Burton SE
Open June 20: Fri 3-7

Sparta Farmers' Market

75 N Union St
Open July: Mon-Sat 9-6:30